

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for producing expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads comprising steps of:

impregnating styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads with an easily volatile blowing agent to obtain expandable resin beads, and

impregnating 100 parts by weight of the expandable resin beads with 0.1 to 2.0 parts by weight of a surfactant at a temperature of 10 to 30°C and a pressure of 0.05 to 0.30 MPa, to obtain expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads.

2. (Currently amended) The method for producing pre-expanded expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is dissolved in an aqueous medium.

3. (Currently amended) The method for producing pre-expanded expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is a cationic surfactant.

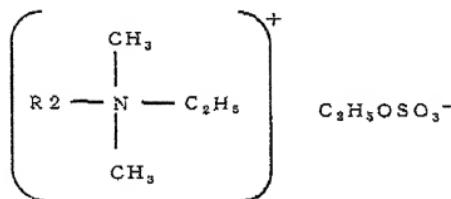
4. (Currently amended) The method for producing pre-expanded expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is liquid at a temperature of 10 to 30°C.

5. (Original) A method for producing pre-expanded beads comprising step of :

pre-expanding the expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads obtained by the method of claim 1 by heating with water steam at a gauge pressure of 0.01 to 0.10 MPa, to obtain pre-expanded beads.

6. (Original)A method for producing expanded molded beads comprising step of :
expanding-molding the pre-expanded beads obtained by the method of claim 5 by heating with water steam at a gauge pressure of 0.05 to 0.15 MPa, to obtain an expanded molded article.
7. (New) The method for producing expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant has a total number of carbon atoms of least 5.
8. (New) The method for producing expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is represented by the following general formula (1): $[(R1)_4N]^+C_2H_5OSO_3^-$.

9. (New) The method for producing expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is represented by the following general formula:



wherein R2 is a straight or branched alkyl group having a carbon number of 5 to 20.